Modernisation of abrasive industry

1197. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to modernise the abrasive industry;

(b) whether the modernisation programme would be taken up during the current financial year; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) The Government have taken several steps to encourage modernisation and technology upgradation in industry. Some of these steps are:

(i) Import of technology for modernisation.

(ii) Permitting capacity increase, resulting fro$_{m}$ modernisation, upto 49 per cent over licensed capacity without locational constraints.

(iii) Liberalisation of the TDF Scheme by increasing the upper limit to Rs. 2 crores and expanding itg coverage.

The abrasive industry can take advantage of these schemes for its modernisation.

Grant of letter of intent for a new project at Rourkela, Orissa

1198. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state;

(a) whether Orissa Government had applied to Central Government for grant of letter of intent to set up a new project at Rourkela in Sundergarh district to produce 50,000 TPA of caprolaitum;

(b) if so, what are the detail* thereof and when the State Government had applied for the grant of letter of intent;

(c) what are the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the steps being taken by Central Government to clear it at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (d) M/s. Industrial Promotion & Investment Corporation of Orissa Ltd. (IPICOL), a State owned undertaking of Govt, of Orissa had submitted an application on 25-8-87 for $_{a}$n inuustrial licence for manufacture of 50,000 TPA of caproloctum and 1,16,000 TPA of ammonium Sulphate (by-product) at Tehsil Pamposh, Rourkela, Distt. Sundargarh in the State of Orissa. The application from M/s. IPICOL for licence for setting up of this project has been rejected on technoeconomic considerations.

Central Public Sector Industries hi Orissa

1199. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state;

(a) what are the names of the central public sector industries in Orissa at present;

(b) what is the number of employees in each of these industries; and

(c) what is the number of Scheduled Tribe employees working in each cf these industries?

THR MINISTER Of INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) The names of the Central Public Sector Enterprises with their registered offices located in the State of Orissa the number of employees and the number of Scheduled Tribe employees work'ng in those enterprises, as per

available information is givten as under:

Name of Public Sector Undertaking	Number of employ-ees	Number of Scheduled Tribe employees
National Aluminium Co.	3453	722
Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. .	438	3
Orissa Drugs & Chemicals Ltd..	85	Nil
Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd.	57	Nil.

Import of natural robber and tyres

1200. SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU; Will the Minister of INDUS TRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of tyres imported after the announcement of the import policy; and

(b) whether Government have taken this into account while fixing the quantity of import of natural rubber and the corresponding reduction in the quantity of import of national rubber?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL, DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No import of tyres have so far taken place under the scheme announced in March, 1988, for the import of specified categories of bus and truck tyres.

(b) Quality of natural rubber to be imported is decided on the basis of the estimated gap in demand and domestic supply.

Llarfng of Gas In Tripura and other N.E. States

1201. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that 50 per cent of the natural gas discovered in the State at Tripura and other North Eastern States remains unutilised and the same is being flared up;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not using this rare resource;

(c) whether any schemes have been drawn up to make best utilisation of this gas; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT); (a) No gas is being- flared in Tripura. In Assam the flaring of gas has come down, over the last three years from 51 per cent to 34 per cent.

(b) to (d) There is scope for greater use of gas in Tripura and other North Eastern States. Supply of gas has been committed for the purpose of setting up new power stations in this area.

Norms for supply of LPG to hifly and forest areas

1202. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA;

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 63 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st August, 1988 and state;

(a) whether in view of the peculiar conditions in hilly areas and forest regions any special norms have so far been devised to facilitate allotment of LPG distributing agencies/dealerBhipB and LPG connections;